

City of Marina

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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March 8, 2000

The Honorable John M. Phillips, Presiding Judge
Coordinated Trial Courts, Monterey County
240 Church Street
Salinas, Ca. 93901

Dear Judge Phillips:

Following is the response of the Marina City Council to the findings and recommendations of the 1999 Monterey County Grand Jury regarding methamphetamine production in Monterey County.

FINDINGS:

1. A significant danger from waste by-products, related to both the manufacture and usage of methamphetamine, places the population-at-large in an at-risk situation. Major meth-makers frequently change the locations of their manufacturing operations making their discovery difficult for law enforcement.

Response: We agree with this finding.

2. Monterey County is the unwitting host to large numbers of individuals involved in the clandestine manufacturing of meth. The profit incentive encourages many individuals to engage in the criminal practice of making of meth.

Response: Illicit manufacturing of methamphetamine is not peculiar to Monterey County. This is a significant problem throughout the State of California and the nation.

3. The prevalence of meth-related criminal activities places the population-at-large at increased risk of such crimes as burglary, robbery, and assault.

Response: Although the logic of this may be correct, there is no statistical data to support this finding.

4. Monterey County is experiencing an increasing incidence of meth-usage and addiction among the population-at-large, especially among youths. Meth manufacturers have developed a multi-level (pyramid) sales scheme.

Response: We agree there is an increasing problem with meth usage in Monterey County.

5. The seizure of assets, including real property of individuals involved in meth making, is often not being exercised by Monterey County law enforcement.

Response: Asset seizure is a tool used by law enforcement to take some of the profit out of the manufacture and sales of illegal drugs. The asset seizure law in California was modified several years ago making such seizures much more difficult. As a consequence, many California law enforcement agencies now use the more liberal federal laws for seizure of assets. One of the primary purposes of the Narcotics Enforcement Unit County of Monterey (NEUCOM) is asset seizure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Law enforcement agencies approach the methamphetamine problem as a distinct entity not related to other drug enforcement activities.

Response: It is not necessary to form a special group, unit or task force to combat the methamphetamine problem in Monterey County.

2. Law enforcement agencies be required to submit information concerning all arrests relating to methamphetamine to the press in the form of press releases rather than simply indicating such incidents in the daily activities logs.

Response: Significant drug arrests are reported to the press. Because of the covert nature of many drug enforcement investigations, releases of information to the media should be at the discretion of the law enforcement agency involved.

3. Law enforcement agencies develop a coordinated communications plan so that methamphetamine information can be effectively shared by all agencies.

Response: The Monterey County Chief Law Enforcement Officers Association have established protocols for communication and coordination of activities between local law enforcement agencies. These protocols are subject to regular update and will be reviewed with this recommendation in mind.

4. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors (BOS) seek the means for funding special methamphetamine-abatement personnel and programs.

Response: This would be a positive move by the Board of Supervisors.

5. The BOS seek the means of funding environmental clean-up of legally seized, methamphetamine-related properties, and execute the resale of such properties as a means of funding increased anti-methamphetamine activities.

Response: This would seem to be an appropriate method for raising funds.


6. The BOS and City Councils provide funding for the purchase of a meth-trained canine.

Response: The City of Marina has a meth-trained canine available to other law enforcement agencies upon request.

7. The BOS and City Councils provide funding for the training and placement of more meth-qualified Deputies in the field.

Response: The City of Marina provides drug enforcement training to all Public Safety Officers and will continue to support drug enforcement efforts in Marina and throughout Monterey County.

Sincerely,



James Perrine
Mayor
City of Marina